

How To Search Our Collections

Manuscript Collection:

There are a number of ways to identify Manuscript materials. A card catalog in the Manuscript Reading Room is available for searching, as well as the Library's online catalog which contains twenty percent of the card catalogs entries. Published guides such as [A Guide to Manuscript Collections of the Indiana Historical Society and Indiana State Library](#) by Eric Pumroy and [Guide to Indiana Civil war Manuscripts](#) by Ann Turner are also good resources to consult. Finding aids are available in the Reading Room for thirty percent of the individual collections. The Finding aids are arranged alphabetically by collection title.

Picture Collection:

Access to the collection is available through a card file index to both images in the Picture Collection as well as in select books and periodicals in the Indiana Collection. The majority of the Picture Collection is arranged by subject or geographic location.

Broadside Collection:

Access to this collection is through a card file index. You can search by title and subject.

Oral History Collection:

Entries for oral histories are available in the main Manuscript Card Catalog as well in the Library's online catalog.

Program Collection:

Programs are arranged by subject and date. A finding aid in the Manuscript Reading Room is available for perusal. However, the program collection is only fully processed for 1830 -1899. The rest of the collection is still in progress.



Visit the Indiana State Library

Everyone is welcome to visit the State Library. Staff are available to assist patrons with their research questions. Librarians with expertise in a variety of fields are on hand to provide guidance and information.

Arrange for a class, club, department, or organization to visit the Indiana State Library. Staff can provide tours geared toward the needs of the group and assist the group in preparing for a research visit.

To arrange a tour or research visit for a group, call 317-232-3670.

Manuscript Collection

Indiana State Library

140 N. Senate Avenue

Indianapolis, IN 46204-2296

Phone: 317-232-3671

Fax: 317-232-3728

Web: www.library.IN.gov

Manuscript Collection Hours:

Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Closed on state and federal holidays.

Indiana State Library

Manuscript Collection

*Preserving Indiana History
for Future Generations*



Constitution Elm, Corydon Indiana
ca. 1902

www.library.IN.gov

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The Manuscript Section houses the manuscript, picture, broadside, program, and oral history collections of the Indiana State Library.

Collection strengths include:

- **Civil War era letters and diaries**
- **Thousands of images from around the state**
- **Organizational papers**
- **Papers of Indiana political figures**
- **Programs from 1830 to the present**
- **Family papers**

What We Have

Manuscript Collection:

We have over three million manuscripts dating from the earliest years of the state through contemporary times from over 4,400 different collections. All collections have an Indiana connection.

Program Collection:

This collection consists of programs from various Indiana events including theater productions, social functions, art exhibitions, and political gatherings. The collection dates from 1830 to the present.

Picture Collection:

There are thousands of photographs, postcards, and other images available in the Indiana State Library's Picture Collection. All images are connected to an Indiana person, place, or event. The vast majority of the images are black and white.

Broadside Collection:

The Broadside Collection contains hundreds of single and double sided printed items, such as posters, flyers, and related materials. The collection includes political posters, notices of meetings, railway schedules, advertisements, and a variety of other materials.

Oral History Collection:

In the 1970s and early 1980s the Indiana State Library undertook an extensive oral history project to document exceptional events in Indiana history as well as day to day experiences.

This collection also contains donated interviews from other local historians and historical societies throughout the state. Several, but not all, of the oral histories are transcribed.

Use of Collections

Anyone may use the materials housed in the Manuscript Collection. There are rules governing the use of the materials and patrons must register before using the collections.

More information about the Manuscript Collection can be found on the State Library's Website.

Online Finding Aids

The State Library's Website has many descriptions of the Manuscript Collection that can help you find materials important to your research.

The Manuscript Collection is dedicated to the care and preservation of all items in the collections. We appreciate all donations of original materials and look forward to caring for these items and making them available to researchers for years to come.